



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 5, 2003

**SIX CHARGED IN CONNECTION WITH 12 ARMED ROBBERIES
IN FIVE EASTERN, PA. COUNTIES**

PHILADELPHIA – United States Attorney Patrick L. Meehan, Philadelphia District Attorney Lynne Abraham, Delaware County District Attorney G. Michael Green, Montgomery County District Attorney Bruce Castor, Lehigh County District Attorney James B. Martin, Bucks County District Attorney Diane Gibbons, Jeffrey A. Lampinski, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, announced today the filing of a 25-count Indictment¹ charging defendants **JEREMY FONTANEZ, RONALD MAPP, DERELL BUCK, KEVIN WASHINGTON, SAMIR AARON, and KYLE PIERCE** with committing 12 separate armed robberies of commercial establishments from on or about November 9, 2001 to on or about October 13, 2002. In some cases, defendants forced employees and patrons into walk-in refrigerators, where they were tied up with plastic wires and duct tape.

“As the indictment alleges, this was a violent group that had little respect for its victims or, for that matter, county boundaries,” Meehan said. “This ring’s tentacles reached five counties and it took extraordinary cooperation among law enforcement to loosen its grip.”

FONTANEZ and MAPP were the ring leaders of this gang and are charged with participating in eleven and twelve armed robberies respectively. The remaining defendants are charged with committing multiple armed robberies as follows:

No.	DATE	BUSINESS	DEFENDANT NAME
1	11/9/01	Game Gallery 6200 Frankford Ave. Philadelphia, PA Philadelphia County	JEREMY FONTANEZ RONALD MAPP

¹An Indictment or Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

2	11/16/01	Young's Mart 1461 North Gravel Pike Lower Frederick Twp., PA Montgomery County	JEREMY FONTANEZ RONALD MAPP
3	12/7/01	Strawberry House 3771 Layfield Road Upper Hanover Twp., PA Montgomery County	JEREMY FONTANEZ RONALD MAPP
4	12/11/01	Game Gallery 6200 Frankford Ave. Philadelphia, PA Philadelphia County	JEREMY FONTANEZ RONALD MAPP DERRELL BUCK
5	12/23/01	Superstar Video 1200 Welsh Road Lansdale, PA Montgomery County	JEREMY FONTANEZ RONALD MAPP
6	12/29/01	Game Gallery 1865 Cottman Ave. Philadelphia, PA Philadelphia County	JEREMY FONTANEZ RONALD MAPP
7	2/14/02	Locust Street Bar 235 South 10 th Street Philadelphia, PA Philadelphia County	JEREMY FONTANEZ RONALD MAPP DERRELL BUCK
8	3/1/02	Pizza Hut 300 Baltimore Ave. Clifton Heights, PA Delaware County	JEREMY FONTANEZ RONALD MAPP DERRELL BUCK
9	4/14/02	Friendly's Restaurant 1836 Catasaqua Road Allentown, PA Lehigh County	JEREMY FONTANEZ RONALD MAPP KEVIN WASHINGTON SAMIR AARON

10	4/18/02	Adult Arcade 1764 Route 309 Coopersburg, PA Bucks County	JEREMY FONTANEZ RONALD MAPP KEVIN WASHINGTON SAMIR AARON KYLE PIERCE
11	6/3/02	Game Stop 3110 Cheltenham Ave. Philadelphia, PA Philadelphia County	RONALD MAPP KEVIN WASHINGTON SAMIR AARON KYLE PIERCE
12	10/13/02	Country Chef Bar & Grill 313 Main Street Red Hill Borough Montgomery County	JEREMY FONTANEZ RONALD MAPP DERRELL BUCK KEVIN WASHINGTON

If convicted of all counts in the indictment, the defendants are facing the following maximum sentences:

JEREMY FONTANEZ	life imprisonment including a 260 year mandatory minimum sentence, a \$2,750,000 fine, 5 years, and an \$1,100 special assessment.
RONALD MAPP	life imprisonment including a 285 year mandatory minimum sentence, a \$3,000,000 fine, 5 years release, and a \$1,200 special assessment.
DERRELL BUCK	life imprisonment including a 85 year mandatory minimum sentence, a \$1,000,000 fine, 5 years release, and a \$400 special assessment.
KEVIN WASHINGTON	life imprisonment including a 85 year mandatory minimum sentence, a \$1,000,000 fine, 5 years release, and a \$400 special assessment.
SAMIR AARON	life imprisonment including a 60 year mandatory minimum sentence, a \$750,000 fine, 5 years supervised release, and a \$300 special assessment.
KYLE PIERCE	life imprisonment including a 35 year mandatory minimum sentence, a \$500,000 fine, 5 years supervised release, and a \$200 special assessment.

This investigation and prosecution was part of *Project Safe Neighborhoods*, a joint initiative by the United States Attorney's Office, each of the nine District Attorney's Offices in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) , and other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to identify and prosecute dangerous firearms offenders in federal court, where the defendants are likely to receive a substantial sentence upon conviction. Recently, as an extension of Project Safe Neighborhoods, the United States Attorney's Office, FBI, ATF, Philadelphia Police Department, and other law enforcement agencies have established the *Hobbs Act Robbery Task Force* to investigate and prosecute organized gangs and groups committing commercial armed robberies in this district.

This case was the second case brought under the Hobbs Act Robbery Task Force and has been investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Pennsylvania State Police, and other state and local law enforcement agencies. The case has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Salvatore L. Astolfi

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE OR DATE OF BIRTH
JEREMY FONTANEZ	748 St. Johns Street Allentown, PA	3/19/77 (25 years old)
RONALD MAPP	4444 Ludlow Street Philadelphia, PA	5/5/76 (26 years old)
DERELL BUCK	1348 S. Paxon Street Philadelphia, PA	8/7/82 (20 years old)
KEVIN WASHINGTON	4046 Haverford Ave. Philadelphia, PA	8/10/83 (19 years old)
SAMIR AARON	4445 Holden Street Philadelphia, PA	11/9/83 (19 years old)
KYLE PIERCE	4800 Walnut Street Philadelphia, PA	5/1/79 (22 years old)

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